THE VALUE OF LABOR.

Eccl. 1:3 What profit hath a man of all his labor which he hath taken under the sun?.

2:24 There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and make his soul enjoy good for his labor.

Intro. Almost the first thing that strikes the Koheleth in his observations is the fact of labor. He sees men at work everywhere- plowing, building, trading, studying governing. The question comes to him, "What does man get out of all his work?" What is the profit of labor?

I. The personal values.

Self-discipline. Largely in his work does a man work out his character and destiny.

Necessity drives us to work for we are naturally lazy. Dr. Storr's Indian candidate for the ministry, asked before Presbytery, "What is original sin?". The Indian replied that he did not know what the original sin of other people was but that his original sin was laziness.

Idleness is the devil's workshop.

~~The bees taken to the Barbados~~.

Work is a great curative agency. Banishes our meloncholy, frees us from morbidness and helps to overcome our sorrows.

Work sustains bodily health and vigor.

II. The mental value of work.

The joy of creation. God has given us somewhat of hi his own creative power. Out of the elemental forces put at his disposal man has built his great cities, established his governments, organized his far-reaching industries, developed his arts and sciences and has become the wonderful inventive genius that he is.

And out of his work man derives great satisfaction.

A traveler outside the great Cologne cathedral, expressed to a near-by workman his appreciation of its beauty and grandeur "Yes,', said the laborer,'it took us many a year to finish it."

Eccl.1:3 Whqt profit hath a man of all his labor which he hath taken under the sun?

INTRO. The problem of Eccl. is the problem of life. What is the good of it all? The first thing that eneters the mind of the Preacher is the fact of labor. He sees men planting building, studying, governing. What do they get out of it? What doth labor profit a man?

1. Personal values.
    Work is self-discipline.
        Both muscles and mind need exercise.
            Work is necessary to a healthy sound condition.
        Work is the best cure for many of our ills.
            Rest cure- work cure.
                Read-"Go to Work".

2. Mental values.
    The joy of creation. Creative power akin to God. The rise of civilization measured by the creative products of man.

3. Economic values.
    More than in terms of dollars anc cents.
        Standards of values. Work establishes worthship of nearly everything. Worthship is worship.
    Work means health, wealth, comfort, life.
        The maitenance of home life, the refinements that help to spiritualize us and keep us sweet.

4. Spcial values. Work makes us all interdependent upon one another and all dependent upon God.
    Political freedom and justice must be extended industrially to all workers of the world before we can have universal peace andsecurity.

Values of Labor

Labor a Necessity

Passing a mill one day, Gotthold recollected the wise observation of a certain prince: "Man's heart is like a millstone. Pour in corn, and round it goes, bruising and grinding, and converting it into flour; whereas give it no corn, and the stone indeed turns round but only grinds itself away, and becomes even thinner and smaller and narrower. Even so the heart of man requires to have always something to do; and happy he that continually occupies it with good and holy thoughts: otherwise it may soon consume, and waste itself by useless anxieties, or wicked and carnal suggestions."

The best remedy for despondency is activity. The most miserable people in the world are those who have nothing to do.

The Work Cure

One of the last of modern devices for physical betterment is the so-called Rest Cure, a retreat within whose outermost gates no form of bodily exercise can penetrate. The patient, presumably suffering from muscular or nervous exhaustion, is put in bed and rigorously kept there. "His strength is to sit still." Absolute inaction is held to be "tired nature's" best physician, and the only prescription which the superintendent writes for the benefit of the invalid is *"Dolce far niente: ab lib."* Give a body or mind opportunity to recover its lost tone, and unless the physical or mental strain has produced some serious lesion, nature will restore the exhausted energy and send the patient back to his usual round of activities thoroughly renewed.

But even a very slight acquaintance with modern life reveals the fact that if some persons need the Rest Cure, as many, or perhaps more, need the Work Cure, a remedy far more difficult to administer. Notwithstanding our asserted strenuousness, it is open to question whether we do not as a people suffer more physically, mentally and spiritually from idleness than from exertion.

QUOTABLE LABOR DAY POETRY

Go to Work

When despair's sharp edge is near,
Go to work!
When your mind is racked with fear,
Go to work!
When you're brooding o'er the past,
When the sky is overcast,
Troubles coming thick and fast,
Go to work!

When you think you've reached the end,
Go to work!
When you haven't e'en a friend,
Go to work!
When you can't see the light ahead,
When your utmost hope has fled,
Don't lie moping in your bed,
Go to work!

Or, to speak in current phrase,
Get a move!
If you have no place to graze,
Get busy!
Take this pointer from me, pard,
When you're feeling awful jarred,
Up against it good and hard,
Hump yourself!
—Ellis O. Jones.

TENEMENT HOUSE WORK

"There was a man in our town,
And he was wondrous wise;
He wanted folks to work at home,
And so he advertised.

"And when he saw the people come
In crowds unto his door,
He said, 'I'll give my work all out;
I need a shop no more'.

"How doeth the manufacturer
Improve the ostrich tail?
By willowing the scraggy ends
Until they're fit for sale.

"How cheerfully he sits and smiles
Throughout the livelong day,
While children knot the tiny bits
And make the plumes that pay."

The New York Child Labor Committee recommends stringent laws regarding work on the street, ages of work, supervision, hours allowed, terminal limit for evening occupations, and measures which, if enacted, in every State, would be one of the greatest blessings the nation ever secured.

WORK

Work, work; well, what of it?
Just so long as it's honest I love it;
And the work may be ditching or blasting out coal,
Or shoveling ballast-rock down in a hole;
Whatever it is it is good for my soul,
If I stand like a man as I do it.

Work, work; well, what of it?
If you know it is good and can prove it?
Be it building a temple or finding a star,
Or prying the portals of Glory ajar,
Or making a brighter spot right where you are,
If you stand like a man and go to it.